



January 3, 2017

POSITION STATEMENT

TO: Licensed Midwives and Administrators of Licensed Birthing Centers

FROM: Gwen C. Thompson, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing

SUBJECT: Use of misoprostol by Licensed Midwives

Section G.5.a of Regulation 61-24, Licensed Midwives, states, "Medications. Drugs or medications shall be administered only after consultation with and prescription by, a physician. The midwife shall not administer any drugs or medications except: a. for control of postpartum hemorrhage." After reviewing literature and consulting DHEC medical staff, it is the Department's position that misoprostol is not a drug or medication intended for control of postpartum hemorrhaging. Therefore, licensed midwives may not administer misoprostol. The Department will cite licensed midwives for a violation of Section G.5 should they administer misoprostol.

Misoprostol is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for postpartum hemorrhaging. Any such use is considered an off-label use. Misoprostol can cause shivering and pyrexia as side effects¹. These side effects may interfere with adequate assessment of the causes or potential causes of postpartum mothers who exhibit fevers.

If there are any questions, you may call the Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing at (803) 545-4370.

GCT/dnf

¹ Allen, Rebecca, MD, MPH and O'Brien, Barbara M., MD, "Uses of Misoprostol in Obstetrics and Gynecology," *Reviews in Obstetrics & Gynecology*, Vol. 2(3) 2009 Summer, pp. 159-168.